

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 036422
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 IO-13 /076 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
APPROVED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
ARA:CWBRAY
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

-----171718 080776 /43

P 171642Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036422

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE CHARGE CALLED IN ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. THE ARGENTINE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES (PRAT GUY) WAS CALLED IN BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER STATED THAT THE USG DOES NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION EXTANT IN ARGENTINA NOR IS THERE ANY QUESTION OF A DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS DEMONSTRATED BY RECENT US STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH RESPECT TO THE USSR, CUBA AND CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. HE RECALLED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN THE US IN LATE 1960'S. BUT WE FULLY REALIZE, HE SAID, THAT THOSE EVENTS WERE NOT AS SERIOUS AS THE ARGENTINE SITUATION WHICH WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE.
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3. U.S. RECOGNIZES, HE CONTINUED, THAT ARGENTINA'S INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM IS BASICALLY A DOMESTIC MATTER. NEVERTHELESS THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS PROBLEM IS HANDLED

INEVITABLY AFFECTS OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THE LONG RUN, HE POINTED OUT, THE VITALITY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

WILL DEPEND ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL FORMS. THIS IS A BASIC CONCERN OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. BUT ARGENTINA IS EXPOSING ITS FLANK IN THE U.S. BY MEASURES SUCH AS TORTURE WHICH CLEARLY RUN COUNTER TO THE FABRIC OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN USEFUL, FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA, BUT THE GOA FAILURE TO CURB EXCESSES IS INCREASINGLY UPSETTING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

4. IN RESPONDING, PRAT GUY REFERRED TO THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT INHERITED AND MAINTAINED THAT THE PRESENT GOA IS SEEKING TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE BARBARIC ACTS OF TERRORIST GROUPS. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAS RELEASED AS MANY PRISONERS AS FEASIBLE UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS AND ALSO HAS FOUND A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE SERIOUS REFUGEE PROBLEM. RECENTLY THE DIMENSIONS OF VIOLENCE HAVE DECLINED AND THIS GIVES ARGENTINA HOPE TO EXPECT GREATER UNDERSTANDING FROM THE U.S.

5. CHRISTOPHER SAID THE U.S. WOULD WATCH THE SITUATION THE CHARGE DESCRIBED WITH CONCERN AND EXPECTATION. IT IS, HE NOTED, ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO MATCH CONTROL OF TERRORISM WITH RESTRAINT AND MODERATION IN THE MEANS EMPLOYED. HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE PROTECTED; THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIME ENDS FOR WHICH THE STATE EXISTS. WE WILL WATCH THE FUTURE WITH HOPE. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AS OUR INTEREST LIES IN USEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.

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6. PRAT GUY SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONVEY THE SENSE OF THIS CONVERSATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE FOR CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS.
HARTMAN

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/HR:FJCRAWFORD

APPROVED BY:IO:PBUNGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036422

FOLLOWING SECSTATE 036422 SENT ACTION BUENOS AIRES FEB. 17;
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
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